

CITY OF OLNEY  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 9, 2015

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The November 9, 2015, meeting of the Olney City Council was called to order by City Clerk Sterchi at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Olney City Hall located at 300 S. Whittle Avenue, Olney, Illinois.

AGENDA #2 “PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG-PRAYER” Council members and visitors joined in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Beau Brown led the group in prayer.

AGENDA #3 “ROLL CALL” The following Council members were present: Les Harrison, Belinda Henton, and John McLaughlin. Bob Ferguson and Ray Vaughn were absent. Also present were City Manager Allen Barker, City Attorney Bart Zuber, City Clerk Kelsie Sterchi, City Engineer Roger Charleston, and City Treasurer Chuck Sanders.

AGENDA #4 “APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO TEM FOR NOVEMBER 9, 2015, MEETING” Mayor Ray Vaughn and Mayor Pro Tem, Councilman Bob Ferguson, were both absent at the November 9, 2015, Council meeting. The present Council members needed to vote a Mayor Pro Tem for this date only to conduct the evening’s meeting.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to appoint Councilwoman Henton as Mayor Pro Tem for the November 9, 2015, meeting, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

AGENDA #5 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

5-A Approve Minutes of Council Meeting on October 26, 2015

5-B Approve and Authorize Payment of Account Payable October 27, 2015: Petty Cash \$259.15, Pooled Cash \$92,374.97, Manual Pooled Cash \$98,441.31, MFT \$5,156.01, EDA \$47.53, 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary \$5,295.74, Tourism \$163.01, Christmas Light Display \$2,025.59, Unclaimed Refunds \$93.47

5-C Raffle License-TRIO Student Support Services

5-D Raffle License-Olney Central College

5-E Raffle License-Becky Mitchell

5-F Raffle License-RMH Foundation

5-G Raffle License-Olney Eagles Aerie #2549

AGENDA #6 “REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM CONSENT AGENDA” No items were requested for removal from the consent agenda.

AGENDA #7 “CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA” Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve the items on the consent agenda, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received to approve the consent agenda.

AGENDA #8 “CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA” No consideration was necessary since no items were removed from the consent agenda.

AGENDA #9 “PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, ETC.”

9-A “Ordinance: Approve Re-Zoning of 1.5 Acres Located West of 3864 E. Seven Hills Lane from A-1 (Agricultural District) to R-5 (Trailer or Mobilehome District)” The Council was provided with a copy of a proposed ordinance to re-zone 1.5 acres west of 3864 E. Seven Hills Lane from A-1 (Agricultural District) to R-5 (Trailer or Mobilehome District), and a copy of the Plan Commission minutes from November 2, 2015.

The re-zoning request had been submitted by Chad and Brandy Piercefield, and went before the Plan Commission on November 2, 2015. The Plan Commission unanimously voted to recommend the re-zoning to the City Council. City Manager Barker explained that the property was outside of City limits, but did still fall under the City’s zoning jurisdiction.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve Ordinance 2015-44, seconded by Councilman Harrison. Councilmen McLaughlin, Harrison and Councilwoman Henton voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

9-B “Ordinance: Approve Granting of a Special Use Permit for a Mobilehome Over 10 Years of Age on 1.5 Acres Located West of 3864 E. Seven Hills Lane” The Council was provided with a proposed ordinance that would grant a Special Use Permit for the placement of a mobilehome over 10 years of age on the same 1.5 acres located west of 3864 E. Seven Hills Lane for Chad and Brandy Piercefield.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve Ordinance 2015-45, seconded by Councilman Harrison. Councilmen Harrison, McLaughlin, and Councilwoman Henton voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

9-C “Discussion/Approval: SOS Bucks for City Employees for Christmas” For many years, full-time City employees and paid-on-call firefighters have been given SOS Bucks as Christmas gifts. The Council was asked if they wished to again provide the SOS Bucks to those employees. The grand total for the SOS Bucks would be \$3,500.00

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve giving the City full-time employees and paid-on-call firefighters SOS Bucks for the Christmas holiday, seconded by Councilman Harrison. Councilmen Harrison, McLaughlin, and Councilwoman Henton voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

AGENDA #10 “REPORTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS”

10-A “City Manager - Status Report” The Council was provided with a Status Report from the City Manager. Mr. Barker told the Council that quotes had been received for the new air conditioning unit at the Police Department. The new unit had been installed at a price of \$4,200.00.

Mr. Barker continued that the new leaf vacuum machine that had been on order for a few months had been on backorder due to delay on its Kubota engine. Mr. Barker hoped the machine would be delivered early in the following week. He also commented that many residents were taking advantage of bagging their leaves for quicker pick up.

Councilman McLaughlin asked if the City had its full supply of salt for the winter. Mr. Barker replied that the City was stocked.

10-B “City Clerk - Squirrel Count Report” The Council was provided with the 2015 Squirrel Count Results. Mrs. Sterchi reported that the 37<sup>th</sup> year of the Squirrel Count had concluded this past October. About 56 different volunteers participated in the year’s count with volunteers consisting of OCC students, U of I students, FFA members, City residents and visitors to Olney. Some of those visitors came from the Chicagoland area, Sullivan, Indiana, Bloomington, Illinois, and the Champaign-Urbana area. Additionally, other out-of-town volunteers were more local and were also OCC students.

The 2015 gray squirrel average came in at 944 with the albino white squirrel average at 88. These numbers were higher than the averages in 2014.

Complaints about stray cats have been received for many years. Last year, the Council passed an ordinance to restrict the number of non-spayed/non-neutered cats per property to four. Mrs. Sterchi was interested to see if the effort had made any difference. In 2015, the average of stray cats reported had decreased by 12%.

Dr. Stencel had also suggested two pilot programs to help prolong the extanction of the albino white squirrels. The first program would be a supplemental nutritional study, and the second would be a gray squirrel capture and release program. Dr. Stencel, Councilwoman Henton, and Mrs. Sterchi would be in touch to see about implementation of such programs.

Mrs. Sterchi also took a moment to thank all of the volunteers who helped out with the count this year.

Councilwoman Henton asked if the new ordinance was being enforced. Mrs. Sterchi replied that she had not seen any reports on such ordinance violations. The Councilwoman requested a report from Animal Control to help determine ordinance effectiveness.

#### AGENDA #11 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS”

11-A “Brian O’Neill” Brian O’Neill, 818 E. Main Street, wondered if a quorum was present at the Council meeting. He also commented that a white squirrel had been hit by a car and killed in front of his home, so the white squirrel number should be decreased by one.

He also felt that the economic development efforts in Olney should be more proactive on researching large corporations.

Mr. O'Neill also informed the Council that there was a new public parking area near Monical's Pizza. He reminded them that no one could be arrested for being on that public forum as it was not private property. He also suggested placing signage to show the parking regulations in that area.

AGENDA #12 "CLOSED SESSION: SALE PRICE OF REAL PROPERTY; ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY; AND APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND PERFORMANCE OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES" Councilman Harrison moved to adjourn to closed session to discuss sale price of real property, acquisition of real property; and appointment, employment and performance of specific employees, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

Councilmen Harrison, McLaughlin, Councilwoman Henton, City Manager Barker, City Treasurer Chuck Sanders, City Attorney Zuber, and City Clerk Sterchi left the Council Chambers at 7:10 p.m.

AGENDA #13 "RECONVENE OPEN SESSION" Upon return of those who were in closed session to the Council Chambers, Councilman Harrison moved to enter back into open session, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Open session resumed at 7:24 p.m.

The City Manager commented that he had received a few complaints regarding the amount of water that goes through an open ditch near Boone and Fair Streets. With the installation of the two large culverts to help with the drainage in that area, excess water was now also flowing through the ditch.

City Engineer Charleston had been contacted to research a solution. According to his estimates, a cost of \$22,500.00 would be needed for 900 feet of fencing. The City would also be required to maintain the fence and install a gate. Mr. Barker requested that Council members drive by and take a look at the area. Councilwoman Henton wondered how many other requests would be submitted to fence a ditch area if this particular ditch was fenced.

AGENDA #14 "ADJOURN" Councilman McLaughlin moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Henton. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi  
City Clerk